

**REGULAR MEETING
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
City of Oakdale
September 19, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Oakdale Parks and Recreation Commission was held on Tuesday, September 19, 2023, at Oakdale City Hall, 1584 Hadley Avenue, Oakdale, Minnesota. The meeting was called to order by Chair Meyer at 7 PM.

CALL OF ROLL

On a call of roll, the following were present:

Chair:	Steve Meyer
Vice Chair:	Glen Giacoletto
Commissioners:	Jan Cunningham Mark Giannini

Also Present:	Jeff Koesling, Parks Superintendent Julie Williams, Recreation Superintendent Andy Morcomb, City Council
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Absent:	Glen Bearth, Commissioner
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Quorum Present: YES NO

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Regular Meeting Minutes, August 15, 2023

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CUNNINGHAM, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GIANNINI TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING OF AUGUST 15, 2023 AS PRESENTED.

4 AYES 0 NAYS

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION WORK PLAN DRAFT – Julie Williams

The draft work plan for the Commission was presented, following the discussion from last month's workshop. Additions and changes can be given to Mrs. Williams between now and the next meeting for next month's agenda.

NEW COMMISSIONERS UPDATE – Julie Williams

Three candidates are on the agenda to be interviewed at the September 26 Council Workshop. Two will be selected to fill the vacant Parks and Recreation Commission spots and begin either at the next meeting, or following.

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PARKS UPDATE – Jeff Koesling

Fall Sports – The season is moving along with cooperative weather. There have been very minimal closures as far as rain. Rain could be useful.

Lawn care – Crews will begin aerating and over seeding areas without athletic uses next week. After soccer ends, athletic areas will follow.

Winterizing – Winterizing irrigation systems and buildings will start within the next week or two to prepare for the arrival of cold weather.

Plowing – Today the crew attended salt training in Cottage Grove. The training is required to operate the equipment.

RECREATION UPDATE – Julie Williams

Touch a Truck – Thanks to Public Works, Police, Fire, and others who participated with their vehicles to make a great community event and turnout last Tuesday. Free ice cream was provided and 300 hot dogs were sold thanks to Glen Bearth and the Maplewood Oakdale Lions Club.

Farmers Market – Four markets remain with fall products arriving. Market Coordinator Nathan Timmons will begin transitioning to the Indoor Market season beginning November 11 at the Discovery Center.

Family Fun Flatables – There was a great turnout this past Saturday from 11 AM to 4 PM at Walton Park. The weather was perfect, there were 12 inflatables, six sponsors, and the Tartan Boosters sold out of concessions. Gold Sponsors included the Oakdale Athletic Association and American Legion Post 39, a silver sponsor was New Horizon Academy, and the bronze sponsors were Marcus Theatres, North Star Skate School/East Metro Stars Hockey, and Parkview Chiropractic.

Oakdale Wellness 50+ – A Walgreens Flu Clinic will be at the Discovery Center on Saturday, September 30 from 11 AM to 2 PM. No registration is required.

Fall Winter Oakdale Update – Newsletters are now available online and will be expected in mailboxes this week.

Discovery Center Beehive – Congrats to beekeepers Karen and Duane Voy who won a Washington County Fair Blue Ribbon, and three ribbons at the Minnesota State Fair for their honey.

MEA Amped Up Entertainment – On Thursday, October 19, from 10 to 11 AM, a special fall amphitheater date will feature the RAD Zoo's Radical Reptile Adventure with live snakes, lizards, turtles, and an alligator.

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COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Park Tours – Chair Meyer reported that the Commission visited Golfview, Furlong, Northdale, Bark Park, and Oakfield on Saturday, August 19. Input from park users is also welcome by email. Feedback and suggestions are shared with staff. Discussed were uses for different age groups, multi-use athletic options, park maintenance items, addressing underused parks such as Tilley, and prioritizing funding for parks with high use. Overall, parks are in good shape. There are a lot of parks in Oakdale with limited staff to care for them. The grass looked really good at the parks visited but not as well at Guthrie Park where the organic fertilizer was tested. He shared that Superintendents Koesling and Williams are doing a great job and more funding overall for parks and recreation would be great.

Commissioner Cunningham explained that the tours allow Commissioners to gain hands on knowledge of park use, see what needs attention or can wait, and receive the valuable input of Superintendent Williams, Councilmember Morcomb and the neighbors that came out to talk. The tours build community that supports children and park users.

Vice Chair Giacoletto looks forward to adding the new Commissioners and assigning parks to each member to share reports on. The basketball project at Guthrie looks great.

Commissioner Cunningham shared that Oakdale Police and Fire will host a public safety and fire prevention class at the Discovery Center on Saturday, October 7 from 10 AM to 12 PM. Please sign up by emailing oakdalewellness50new@gmail.com.

CITY COUNCIL UPDATE – Andy Morcomb

Park Tours – Council values feedback to help answer questions about how to fund parks going forward and what parks should look like in Oakdale's future. Three new parks are coming in the Willowbrooke neighborhood, along with a park planned for the development adjacent to the bus rapid transit line. It will be helpful to see an equation to determine staff needed per number of parks or acreage, and see if Oakdale is ahead or behind to budget accordingly for the opening of the parks and maintenance of these resources.

Guthrie Park Grass – Mr. Koesling replied to Councilmember Morcomb's question about his opinion on the organic fertilizer outcome at Guthrie Park. Mr. Koesling noticed that the grass may not be as thick as it had been in the past but there is a drought.

Willowbrooke Commons – The asphalt trails are almost complete except for a few connection points with roads. The asphalt layer for 36th Street is scheduled for later this week or early next week, now that a number of weeks passed to make sure that sinkholes did not form.

Norhart Apartments – Developers have expressed interest in the land surrounding the 4th Street bus rapid transit project. They have not yet submitted any formal applications. There is a future potential park planned for this area. Zoning will determine what businesses and apartment buildings come in.

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ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COMMISSIONER CUNNINGHAM, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER GIANNINI TO ADJOURN THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION, DATED SEPTEMBER 19, 2023, AT 7:24 PM.

4 AYES 0 NAYS

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Linzmeyer